Attorney Docket: 4538US

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 3, 6, 12-14 and 17 have been amended. They are presented in clean form in Appendix C attached hereto. Please enter these claims as amended. Also attached as Appendix D is a marked-up version of the amended claims.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Accompanying this Preliminary Amendment is a Letter to the Chief Draftsman submitting proposed revisions to FIG. 3. Approval of the revised figure is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

No new matter has been added. The Applicant requests again entry of the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the application on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 12, 2001

JAW/bv